



THE ORGANIC CULTIVATOR

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

GRAZING ACRES.....AND ACRES, AND ACRES	1
FROM THE DIRECTOR	1
CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE	2
MEET MOSA STAFF MEMBER: CULLEN CARNS-HILLIKER	5
THE RIGHT PATH: DUE PROCESS, RED TAPE, HANDSHAKES AND HEART	6
COST SHARE REMINDER	8
THE TINY CROP REPORT LAUNCH	8
STATE COST SHARE CONTACT INFO BY STATE	9
CLASSIFIEDS	10
EVENTS	11

GRAZING ACRES.....AND ACRES, AND ACRES

Cheyenne and Katy Christianson

by Joe Pedretti, Outreach Manager

Cheyenne and Katy Christianson started renting their farm in July of 1993. By the following year they were able to buy the farm and began grazing their herd. In 1995 they bought the farm across the road to expand their acres. Although it came together quickly, it was anything but easy. "The farm we bought across the road was terrible. The organic matter was 1.7% on a sandy loam soil. It was completely mined

out. One big field was half orchardgrass and half moss," noted Cheyenne. It would take time and planning, but through managed grazing, fertility inputs (rock phosphate, micronutrients, high calcium lime), and reseeded, he was able to bring the soil back to life. "A lot of the seeds were there. All they needed was fertility. Now the organic matter is 3.5-4%. We succeeded in turning the sand black."

see GRAZING ACRES on page 4



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you! As the seasons change and we head into fall, I hope you have had a productive summer - and left some time for yourself to have some fun! The summer is a very busy time for MOSA; we finish the initial reviews of the updated paperwork clients submit, we inspect all client operations, and we begin final reviews and make certification decisions. In addition, this year has brought a bumper crop of new clients; as the organic industry continues to grow, so does MOSA!



Cori Skolaski
Executive Director

And as MOSA grows, we're expanding our staff and our facility. We have recently welcomed several new employees - Curt Parr joins us as the IT Manager, Tracy Trahan is the Financial/HR Assistant, and Stephanie Leahy and Kendra Volk are new Certification Specialists. We also have big plans for building renovation. This past spring we purchased our building at 122 W Jefferson in Viroqua, and are now finalizing plans for remodeling to make room for our employee growth, and to make more efficient use of our space. Look for an open house invitation next summer!

MOSA is considering offering a new service - to provide transitional certifi-

see DIRECTOR on page 5

CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

National List updates - 2016 Sunset Review Final Rule

The National List identifies the substances that may be used in organic crop and livestock production. The Sunset Review is the process the NOSB follows to confirm that every substance on the National List continues to meet all evaluation criteria per the Organic Foods Production Act.

As recommended by the NOSB, following their 2016 Sunset review at the April 2015 NOSB meeting, the following five substances are to be removed from the National list:

- egg white lysozyme
- cyclohexylamine
- diethylaminoethanol
- octadecylamine
- tetrasodium pyrophosphate.

After considering public comments and supporting documents, the NOSB determined that the substances are no longer necessary or essential for organic handling since substances and practices exist that provide alternatives to all five substances that are more compatible with organic production and handling.

The rule is effective on September 12, 2016, the current sunset date of the substances. Organic products already in stream of commerce prior to September 12, 2016 (i.e., those manufactured, in storage, or on shelves, labeled, and ready for shipment), can still be sold as organic after the September 12, 2016, effective date. Organic products manufactured on or after September 12, 2016, need to comply with the new requirements. For more information, see the [Federal Register Notice](#).

The Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force Report has been released!

Over the years we've covered the developing discussion and recognition of hydroponic and aquaponic production under the organic standards. It's a controversial topic to be sure! Late last year the National Organic Program (NOP) formed the **Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force**. The task force was given the objective of examining hydroponic and aquaponic production and its alignment with the USDA organic regulations and the Organic Foods Production Act, since the USDA organic regulations do not specifically address this type of production. This task force was a first step toward addressing the need for a clear policy on this issue. The 16 members that were selected are diversely qualified experts with a technical knowledge of hydroponic, aquaponic and organic production and representing a range of stakeholder groups including producers, researchers/scientists, consumer representatives, conservationists, systems designers, and organic certifying agents. The task force was charged with preparing a report to inform the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) as it determines the best path forward on hydroponics and aquaponics production system. The report details the technical information that the NOSB needs in order to develop comprehensive recom-

mendations regarding hydroponic and aquaponic production. The report has been made available to the public: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2016%20Hydroponic%20Task%20Force%20Report.PDF>.

The public may provide comments to the NOSB during public comment period for the November NOSB meeting (see Steve Walker's report in this issue), and there will be additional opportunities for comment in the future after the NOSB develops a proposal on hydroponic and aquaponic production practices for public comment.

Since the workload of the taskforce was so great, they broke into subcommittees which each prepared a portion of the report. The committees evaluated the 2010 NOSB recommendation on terrestrial plants in containers and enclosures (greenhouses), assessed hydroponics and aquaponic production, and considered alternative labels. During evaluation of the 2010 recommendation, the committee honed in on the debated issue of growing plants to maturity in containers. Other forms of production, like sprouts, mushrooms, wild aquatic plants, and seedlings were discussed as compliant with the Standards. The committee summarized the concerns with container grown plants. At issue are operations that fertigate, where fertility is primarily provided through the irrigation system; hydroponic production, in which fertility comes from the water not the soil; and container production of crops to maturity, where the media in the containers may or may not contain soil or contribute to fertility of the crop. The task force felt there were two options: prohibit the production of crops to maturity or set forth requirements for containers and media. Criteria is proposed for characterizing container systems. Included is assessment of the source of fertility, the type of media, the biological activity of the media, consumer awareness of growing method, type of crop grown, container size, and adherence to the National Organic Standards (NOS). The committee pointed out that the United States is alone in not having created separate greenhouse rules for certification.

The committee that evaluated production methods presented some new clarifications to the types of systems that should not be considered compliant and those that could be. In addition to the familiar terms we hear - hydroponic, aquaponic, and aeroponic - the committee included in the report a new definition for bioponics. Bioponic production is a contained and controlled growing system in which plants in growing media derive nutrients from natural animal, plant and mineral substances that are released by the biological activity of microorganisms. This differs from traditional hydroponics, which uses an inert growing media and where fertility comes from a mineral nutrient solution. They identified that the most common form of bioponic production is aquaponics. While there are varying systems for production, the advantages of a bioponic system are the same, centering on the concept of precision control of inputs, reducing waste, and controlling growing conditions in order to reduce environmental impact and conserve

see *POLICY UPDATES* next page

resources, such as land and water, and increase food safety and disease suppression. Aquaponic systems have continued to increase in scale and number, and are dependent on a biologically active water based ecosystem. The task force evaluated the NOS for areas of alignment and identified the areas that do not seem to align, or where there are additional questions that need to be answered. **The group felt that a bioponic system could align with the intent of the regulations** and summarized their work in one short paragraph. *"In a time of increasing climatic instability and variability, systems that are resource efficient will become increasingly important in order to maintain a consistent food supply. However, the fact that growers find benefits using these methods is not sufficient justification for their allowance in USDA organic regulations. The challenge still remains in determining if these methods align with OFPA and current USDA organic regulations, and can/should the USDA organic regulations be updated to specify requirements for crops produced in containers to ensure adherence to fundamental organic agricultural methodology."*

Alternative labels were also discussed during the course of this work. The subcommittee considered labeling options for hydroponic and container production systems within the USDA standards and also outside of the organic standards. They outlined some of the benefits and challenges of alternate labeling, and since there was not agreement among the members the report presents the range of ideas, rather than giving a succinct recommendation. The goals of labeling should be to provide consumers with a transparent label and to enable clear communication regarding distinguishing characteristics of the various production systems. Yet, there are many challenges to such labeling.

The first and biggest challenge is in determining what types of production fit within the NOS. Labeling is dependant on clear standards defining systems that could be included. Labeling ideas included USDA Organic - Container Grown; USDA Organic - Soil-Less; USDA Organic - Hydroponic; USDA Organic - Bioponic. While these ideas were given, it's clear that more work is necessary before delving in deeper. The task force felt that it may be more feasible to create a separate standard for hydroponic production including

container grown, soil-less, and bioponic systems or an Agricultural Marketing Service Process Verified program could be a possibility, where separate requirements are verified. A Process Verified Program would seem easier to implement since a new standard for production may take an act of Congress and significant time and resources. The NOSB will have their work cut out to evaluate the ideas, advantages, and challenges to the development of alternate labeling.

Here at MOSA, we appreciate the effort and thought that has clearly went into defining all that the NOSB should consider as they develop a proposal and we look forward to seeing a final recommendation on this subject.

Aquaculture Standards Development

In other controversial news, our organic industry has just passed the one year mark since the USDA sent proposed Aquaculture standards up the chain of command for publication of the proposed rule. It's unclear what is holding up the process, but if and when the standards are released, they will be the first US standards for the organic production and cultivation of fish and other seafood. It's been a long road that promises to be longer. The work began back in 2005 when the Aquaculture Working Group force was formed. The group was comprised of a diverse group of experienced professionals consisting of representatives from universities, trade associations, aquaculture producers and suppliers, and environmental interests. Also included were growers of a variety of fish and shellfish, and scientific experts in this field. The group was tasked with development of draft organic production and handling standards for aquatic animals and plants. The first part of the work was submitted in January of 2006, but the work was far from done though as more consideration was needed for bivalve molluscan shellfish (clams, oysters, mussels, and scallops), feed and facilities. The work finally concluded in Spring of 2010 when the NOSB adopted the last of the recommendations for aquaculture standards and sent the full set of final recommendations on for NOP consideration. Six years later..... we await publication of a proposed rule for public comment. ■



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Grazing is at the center of everything that the Christiansons do. Although they have fed small amounts of grain in the past, they are now grain-free and shipping milk for the Organic Valley “Grassmilk” branded program, which features fluid milk and yogurt products.

They currently have 90 cows (including nurse cows) on 240 acres of pasture, but their ideal number is 70 cows. Cheyenne grazes the entire farm at least once per year. The cattle are moved every 12 hours to a new paddock. Cheyenne is a believer in taller grazing heights. “We used to go in at 8”. We realized that when we did that we had too many thin and loose cows. Cows need fiber, and the earthworms need residue, so we let the forage get taller- around knee height. With no grain we really need that taller forage, but you can’t let it get too mature or you will lose quality. Grazing taller may cost you a little milk, but the body condition is better, and you get better breeding.”

“Worms are the other part of my livestock. The cows and the soil biology are equally important. We try to always leave six inches of residue as food for the worms and faster regrowth. That is really important for building organic matter. You can’t focus just on feeding the cows and not the worms and microbes. When you build up your soils, you can soak up crazy amounts of rain. We had eight inches of rain the first week of June. No water left our farm, while there were huge gullies in neighboring farm fields. That is a testa-

ment that we are on the right track. Lots of ground cover and good organic matter. That is the key to preventing water from leaving. If it does run, it is nice and clear,” remarked Cheyenne.

Two crops of hay are taken off many of the fields for winter feed with a few getting cut a third. Cheyenne puts up both dry hay and balage. “The balage has really helped. It can be done earlier to preserve feed quality. We also clip paddocks after grazing if the orchardgrass gets ahead of us. Some farmers don’t like orchardgrass, but during drought years, it is often the only grass that grows. The older varieties would rust, but with newer varieties, and better soil fertility, the cows will eat it all year. I like a mix of alfalfa, timothy, ryegrass, orchardgrass, and red clover. I have never had to plant white clover. It comes up all on its own. Pasture improvement is our number one goal.”

In addition to his grass/legume paddocks, Cheyenne also tills about 10-20 acres per year and plants annuals for grazing, drought mitigation, and season extension. These usually go into paddocks that he is renovating. He has experimented with several annual grazing crops, but has settled on rye/triticale, summer millet and fall oats as the most successful options. “In dry years, the annuals have really helped. Annuals provide high energy, quick tonnage

see GRAZING ACRES next page



cont. GRAZING ACRES from previous page

and summer millet may be the only thing that grows during hot, dry summers. We never set out to just do a new thing. We do everything incrementally and on a smaller scale first. Jumping in too fast can result in horror stories. Do a trial, and see how it works. That way it never hurts the bottom line."

The annuals help with season extension, but Cheyenne also believes in supplemental feeding. "We are ready and willing to use stored feed to stretch our pastures, even as early as September, or during dry spells. Don't keep going until you hit a wall. The longer you can take to get there the better. If you graze it all- you're done." If it's dry and you graze it all down it won't regrow much, if any, but the taller pasture will often keep growing some.

Cheyenne divides his cattle into four groups: milking cows, nurse cows/calves, bred heifers/dry cows, and yearlings. "We started experimenting with nurse cows in 2009. Before that we used nipple barrels. The milk from fresh cows and high somatic cell cows went into the barrels. At first we put a few cows in with the babies, with about two to three calves per cow. That worked so well that we started putting them on pasture and stopped using the barrels. If you let them adapt in a pen before putting them out on pasture, it works really well. We have fat and healthy calves that start grazing early. They are fully weaned by five to six months and do really well in the winter. Nurse cows have been a huge plus for us. Just make sure the calves have been fully weaned. We had some dead quarters in our heifers from sucking because we mixed weanlings and bred heifers too soon," said Cheyenne. It works best to keep them in a separate group on pasture. Winter is easy because they have their own pen.

Cheyenne did not change his genetics when switching to all grass. The herd is still Holstein. "I kept my own bulls from the best cows and rely on line breeding. We do cull, but most cows worked pretty well. A lot of the original cows stayed. My herd developed along with the farm."

They have two Coverall barns for winter housing and feeding. One of them is a bedding pack, and the other has feeders and feed wagons. "We feed round bales of hay and balage. We leave the horns on our cows, so I have to make sure that we have enough feeders to allow the smaller animals to get enough to eat. There is always a hierarchy in the herd," said Cheyenne.

The Christiansons were committed to organic principles from the very beginning, even though there was no local market when they started. "I was raised with the organic mindset. The few inputs I bought from Midwestern BioAg were all allowable. Between that and grazing, we were ready when the market was ready for us. In 1999, I went to a pasture walk and Organic Valley was there, recruiting new members for a route in our area. The organic milk premium, and the additional premium for producing "Grassmilk" is great, but we had it pretty simple since we knew we wanted a no-grain, low input, grass-based organic dairy from the start."

For more details about the Christianson Organic Farm: [Grazing Acres](#) ■



MEET MOSA STAFF MEMBER: CULLEN CARNS-HILLIKER

What do you do in your position at MOSA? I am a Certification Specialist at MOSA. I also conduct inspections during the year for farms and processing operations. In addition, I am a member of a

number of working groups and projects around MOSA that help to build our business and make our work more efficient.

What do you do with your time outside of MOSA? I have two glorious boy children. They keep me busy and appreciative. Luckily, only one of them (the 10 year old) is starting to dye their hair red. The other (6 years) is losing teeth. We are avid fishermen, gardeners, hikers and sporting event watching men.

How long have you been at MOSA? Can you tell us one thing that was really different when you started? I have worked at MOSA for a little over 6 years. When I started, I worked in the administrative department, so my job has shifted significantly since I moved to the Certification Department. The thing that's changed the most is the growth of MOSA's clients and the growth of MOSA's staff. When I started in the Certification department in the spring of 2011, we had 6 staff. Now, we have 13. That's a lot of change.

Why organic? It's good for my kids. It's good for the earth. Organic food tastes good.

Why MOSA? I appreciate the intellectual challenge of coming into work every day. I grapple with issues that are intellectually mind-bending which also have a significant impact on the economic well-being of farmers and businesses in my community and around the midwest. I enjoy working with the committed and dedicated people around me. Although, they also make me laugh and keep me from getting too serious about the impact of the Origin of Livestock rule or the need to get a non-GMO statement for that enzyme in the cheese product.

What are a few great things about your life? The ripening grapes growing in the back yard. The fact that my children still run and jump into my arms when they see me. The stocked cabinets with canned pickles, salsa and jam. Thursday CSA pick-ups. West Wing. ■

cont. DIRECTOR from page 1

cation for the period of time when moving from conventional production methods to organic. Do you have any thoughts on this? If so, I'd love to hear them.

In September, several of our staff will be attending Natural Products Expo East in Baltimore; if you are there, please stop by and say hello to Steve Walker, Erik Gundersen, and Cullen Carns-Hilliker.

see DIRECTOR on page 8

THE RIGHT PATH: DUE PROCESS, RED TAPE, HANDSHAKES, AND HEART

by Stephen Walker, Operations Manager

A good portion of my work time at MOSA is spent deciding the best path toward soundly and sensibly enforcing our organic standards, especially when the issues at hand are more “sticky,” or uncertain. MOSA now works with nearly 2000 organic operations across the US, and each one has unique challenges. As we offer practical, reliable and friendly certification services, we aim to be consistent, while recognizing that the best path for one situation may not be the best for another. I’ve written here before about some of our challenges in sorting the grey into black and white, a need to recognize when to use a little reasonable discretion, and, when to step very carefully. Sometimes, we can see where we want to get to, but find that the proper “due process” way to get there takes more effort than what seems like a sensible shortcut. MOSA staff now make fun of my frequent use of the word “typically” when setting policy. It leaves us an out when dealing with unusual cases. But, when wearing my Operations Manager hat and dealing with accreditation and compliance issues, I recognize the value of being a “process conservative.” In this business, methods matter. Properly administering and defining our National Organic Standards takes a lot of careful communication, listening, focus on desired ends, and consideration of proper methods. A good dose of heart helps, too.

Below, we’ll look at some current organic news and ongoing opportunities to comment on our Standards. These all relate to prescribed paths for communication, directed toward building a stronger organic program.

Fall NOSB meeting coming to the midwest

The next meeting of the National Organic Standards Board is in St. Louis, MO, on November 16th-18th. The NOSB is a 15-member Federal Advisory Committee which makes Organic Standards-related recommendations to the USDA. The NOSB meets twice per year to discuss issues and vote on its final recommendations. MOSA typically offers written and in-person comments for these meetings. Many times we’ve seen communication from organic stakeholders like us, and like you, make a difference. All meetings are free and open to the public, and no registration is required, except to sign up for oral comments. This public feedback is an important and vibrant part of the standards development process.

Meeting information was published earlier this time, allowing better opportunity to prepare comments ahead of the meeting. Meeting details, including instructions for submitting comments, can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/event/nosb-fall-2016-meeting-st-louis-mo>.

It’s expected that we’ll hear a lot about soy wax, which was sent back to the NOSB Crops Subcommittee after the April meeting in Washington, DC. Soy wax was proposed as an addition to the

list of allowed materials, for sealing inoculated holes in logs for mushroom production. However, spring discussion considered whether or not there should be an annotation restricting use to wax from non-GMO soybeans, though the Standards already categorically restrict use of GMO’s/excluded methods.

As the largest organic livestock certifier in the US, we’re weighing in on a petition to remove the parasiticide *ivermectin* from the National List. The livestock subcommittee is recommending removal since ivermectin use has a negative impact on dung beetles (a critical component of good pasture management), and since moxidectin and fenbendazole, high quality pasture and range management grazing techniques, and various herbal remedies are possible alternatives.

Also, this meeting allows an opportunity for public comments on the 196-page report from the *Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force*, now forwarded to the NOSB. Jackie’s article in this newsletter gives a lot of details on that report.

There’s more to come. At the time of this writing, only a few subcommittee recommendations and discussion documents were published, but more will be posted as they’re completed, with written comments or sign up for in-person comments due by October 26th. Check that meeting page online, or watch for more information in this newsletter and on our website.

Certification decision due process - mediation and settlement

Early in my time with MOSA, I learned, maybe counterintuitively, that our decision-making process is sometimes appropriately slow, appropriately deliberate, especially when it comes to due process for suspending or revoking certification. Those adverse action decisions can affect livelihoods and families. At National Organic Program training sessions each of the past several years, we’ve heard a lot about proper process once we propose certification suspension or revocation. It’s now very clear that these actions can only be settled through a mediation process with MOSA, or through appeal to the NOP. Mediation is valuable for efficiently bringing organic operations into better compliance, or, for more efficiently getting noncompliant operators out of the Program. It’s a chance to sit down and share careful communication and consideration en route to an agreement. However, sometimes, this due process just seems too formal for the circumstances.

I recently participated on an Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) working group to determine best paths for settling various types of adverse action issues. With representatives from other agencies - OCIA, OneCert, Oregon Tilth, OEFFA, and QCS - we developed a Q & A + Resources Document for Utilizing Mediation and Settlement Agreements. We noted there are many

see *PATH* next page

reasonable variations in mediation and settlement agreement processes, but each of these use a lot of staff time. We considered options and appropriate circumstances for using informal mediation processes - without use of a third party mediator, and typically used for administrative issues - as compared to formal mediation. The document's 21 questions and answers cover what a mediation request can look like, what informal mediation can look like, process questions, what constitutes a qualified mediator, and contents of settlement agreements.

So, with new NOP clarification on process requirements, we've been issuing a lot of settlement agreements this year, and charging additional administrative fees, where in the past we instead might have just issued a simple resolution letter. MOSA clients should take note: if you receive a noncompliance notice, respond promptly - when it's easier, more like a handshake. Unfortunately, many times we get to the point of suspension only because folks fail to resolve simple noncompliance issues related to fees or certification paperwork. If these proceed to adverse action, then we have to bring out some red tape, even though we're trying to keep communication as practical and friendly as possible. Many shortcuts just aren't allowed.

Mediation procedures and fees are described in our Program Manual. We may make a few changes to that, informed by this ACA group work.

A bit of NOP backpedaling on green waste.

With so many of our decisions, the process is a key to achieving a desired outcome. The National Organic Program was recently corrected on their own decision process. We recently learned of a judicial ruling which overturned NOP guidance on Allowance of Green Waste in Organic Production Systems (NOP 5016). A required notice-and-comment rulemaking process did not occur before this document was published in 2010, so the document was vacated as of August 22nd. In response, the USDA will go back and follow proper process, enabling public input.

NOP 5016 had defined green waste, like municipal park waste, or curbside-collected grass clippings or garden waste, and recognized that such waste may contain background levels of synthetic pesticides. However, the document allowed use of such waste as long as it was composed of allowed compost feedstocks and did not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water. For now, we'll continue to review and approve all materials used by organic producers, including compost. We reserve the right to request additional information we deemed necessary to evaluate compliance. That can include bioassay other quality assurance testing from compost suppliers.

Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council

Not unlike the USDA responding to recommendations from the NOSB, our Wisconsin Department of Agriculture also has a forum for receiving comments and recommendations on organic issues. I serve as the organic certifier representative on the

Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council. (Details on this council are here: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/OrganicAdvisoryCouncil.aspx>.) At our recent meeting (where we had the pleasure of observing potato handling activities at MOSA-certified Alsum Farms & Produce, in Friesland, WI) we were reminded of the purpose of this Council: "to provide guidance to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor, the Legislature, and other state agencies on actions that can be taken to further the Wisconsin organic industry." We've done a good job of sharing interdisciplinary information and education over the years, including developing *A Consumer's Guide to Organic Food*, but we were reminded that we could be more diligent about making formal recommendations, to better encourage our state leaders to take actions that benefit organic stakeholders. To that end, I'm open to hearing your public comments, your ideas for action to benefit organic stakeholders in Wisconsin. If you're so inclined, feel free to contact me at MOSA with your perspective and ideas.

Beyond words and process

The news above makes it evident that even though we may have many ways to arrive at an end, sometimes there's a prescribed way to get there, and sometimes that road is longer than we'd like it to be. So it is. We might consider that a longer road gives more time to reflect, to consider options, to stop and consider the roses. It's that proper consideration and dose of heart that makes a difference.

This work in organic always involves more than is readily apparent. Sometimes the essential stuff is invisible to the eye. Those of us on the regulatory side know we've got to consider things like due process, and clear, open communication. And those of us with our hands in the soil know that the true ends of our work are beyond what can be measured, say, in yields. I'm reminded of and inspired by some John Barlow song lyrics, from "Let it Grow."

*"The plowman is broad as the back of the land he is sowing
As he dances the circular track of the plow ever knowing
That the work of his day measures more than the planting and
growing
Let it grow, let it grow, greatly yield.*

*"What shall we say, shall we call it by a name
As well to count the angels dancing on a pin
Water bright as the sky from which it came
And the name is on the earth that takes it in
We will not speak but stand inside the rain
And listen to the thunder shouting
'I am! I am! I am! I am!'*

*"So it goes, we make what we made since the world began
Nothing more, the love of the women, work of men
Seasons round, creatures great and small,
up and down, as we rise and fall."*

Stay the course, the good road. ■

COST SHARE REMINDER

by Lexy McManaway, Cost Share Coordinator

For most state cost share programs, there's still time to submit your 2015 -2016 organic cost share application. The organic cost share reimbursement program reimburses organic operations 75 percent up to \$750.00 for allowable certification costs incurred and paid between 10/01/2015 -09/30/2016 and for each category of certification. Please see the [July/Aug The Organic Cultivator](#) (all back issues are at www.mosaorganic.org) for a detailed description of the organic cost share reimbursement program and state contact information. *Each state program sets their own Cost Share application deadline and the application deadline is not the same for all states.* If you will be applying for organic cost share, make sure to confirm the application deadline with your state cost share program or contact Lexy McManaway, 608-637-2526.

Michigan operations: The application deadline for Michigan Organic Cost Share is October 1, 2016.

See State Info - Page 9 ■

MOSA SPONSORS UPCOMING IOIA INSPECTION TRAININGS

**Basic Organic Crop Inspection Training,
October 31 – November 4, 2016, Farmington, MN**

**Basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training,
November 7–11, 2016, Farmington, MN**

**Organic Livestock Inspection Field Training,
November 14-15, Viroqua, WI**

New in 2016, the Field Training is a structured apprenticeship that will include two days of practice inspections with trainers from IOIA and MOSA. This training is designed for prospective inspectors who have successfully completed an IOIA Basic Livestock Inspection Training, but participants without basic livestock training will be considered for acceptance with an endorsement or recommendation from a certification agency.

Further information (costs, how to register, etc.) can be found on the [IOIA website](#). ■

THE TINY CROP REPORT LAUNCH

AVM Publishing, Inc. Northfield, IL will soon be launching **The Tiny Crop Report – Great Lakes Edition**. The report will provide the details for the availability of crops produced on a small scale, but difficult for craft chefs, bakers, brewers and others to locate. The Tiny Crop Report is also designed to increase the awareness of little known items and their growers.

The Tiny Crop Report will be published 20 times per year. Farmers/Growers will be provided the report at no charge, in exchange for sharing their crop information on a timely basis. Farmers/Growers, we will need your contact information and for each crop: quantity, availability dates and price range. Other information **The Tiny Crop Report** will assemble, are the most efficient transporting options available. Farmers and Growers will transact directly with the crop buyers.

To have your crops included at no cost, contact Rob Loomis at AVM Publishing – 847-867-7624 or RobLoomis@AVMPublishing.com. **The Tiny Crop Report – Great Lakes Edition** will launch Report #1 in mid September 2016. Call Rob today!

For More Information Contact:

Rob Loomis
AVM Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 8282
Northfield, IL 60093
847-867-7624
RobLoomis@AVMPublishing.com ■

cont. DIRECTOR from page 5

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything in this newsletter – or about MOSA – please feel free to contact me at cskolaski@mosaorganic.org or 608-637-2526. Thank you for reading, and thanks for your continued commitment to organic integrity. ■



STATE COST SHARE CONTACT INFO AND APPLICATION DEADLINES BY STATE*

**subject to change.*

CALIFORNIA

Sharon Parsons
California Department of Food and
Agriculture
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
P: (916) 900-5202
Email: SParsons@cdfa.ca.gov

ILLINOIS

Jeff Squibb
Illinois Department of Agriculture,
Bureau of Marketing and Promotions
801 E. Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702
P: (217) 524-9129
Email: jeff.squibb@illinois.gov
Application Deadline: 11/1/2016

INDIANA

Tammy Butts or Beth Goeb
Indiana Department of Agriculture
One North Capital Ave, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204
P:(317) 232-8335 or (317) 232-8334
Email: tabutts@lg.IN.gov or
bgoeb@lg.IN.gov
Cost Share Website Application Deadline:
10/15/2016

IOWA

Maury Wills or Tammy Stotts
IA Dept. of Ag and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
P: 515-281-5783 F: 515-281-6236
E-mail: maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us;
tommy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov
Application Deadline: 11/15/2016

KANSAS

Josh Roe
Kansas Department of Agriculture
109 Southwest 9th Street, 4th Floor
Topeka, KS 66612
P: (785) 368-6463 C: (785) 410-0958
Email: Josh.Roe@kda.ks.gov
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

MARYLAND

Deanna Baldwin
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry South Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
P: (410) 841-5769 F: (410) 841-2750
E-mail: Deanna.Baldwin@maryland.gov

MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Jordan
Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
P: (617) 626-1700 F: (617) 626-1850
E-mail: Mary.Jordan@state.ma.u

MICHIGAN

Robin Rosenbaum or Josh Grant
MI Dept. of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909
Robin Rosenbaum - P: 517-335-6542
Email: rosenbaumr@michigan.gov
Josh Grant - 517-284-5789; F: 517-335-4540
Email: grantj5@michigan.gov
Application Deadline: 10/1/2016

MINNESOTA

Meg Moynihan
Minnesota Dept. of Ag.
625 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55155
P: 651-201-6616 F: 651-201-6120
E-mail: meg.moynihan@state.mn.us
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

MISSOURI

Cindy Thompson
Organic Certification Cost-Share Program
PO Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630
573-51-7794
Email: cindy.thompson@mda.mo.gov
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

MONTANA

Breanna Caldwell
MT Dept. of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201, Helena, MT 59620-0201
P: 406-444-3730 F: 406-444-7336
E-mail: dcrabtree@state.mt.gov
Application Deadline: 10/15/2016

NEBRASKA

Steve Martin
NE Dept. of Agriculture
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509-4947
P: 800-422-6692 F: 402-471-6863
E-mail: steve.martin@nebraska.gov
Application Deadline: 11/15/2016

NEW JERSEY

Anne Marie Ference or Debra McCluskey
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
369 South Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
P: (609) 777-0098 or (609) 984-2225
F: (609) 984-2508
E-mail: Anne.Marie.Ference@ag.state.nj.us
or Debra.McCluskey@ag.state.nj.us
Application Deadline: 11/16/2016

NEW YORK

Anne St. Cyr

NY Dept. of Ag & Markets
10 B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235A
E-mail: Anne.St.Cyr@agriculture.ny.gov
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

NORTH CAROLINA

Heather Barnes
Marketing Specialist
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1020
P: 919-707-3127 F: 919-715-0155
E-mail: heather.barnes@ncagr.gov
Application Deadline: 9/30/2016

NORTH DAKOTA

Emily Edund
North Dakota Dept. of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - #602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
P: 701-328-4759; 800-242-7535
F: 701-328-4567
E-mail: edlund@nd.gov
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

OHIO

OEFFA, Attn: Organic Cost Share
41 Crowell Road, Columbus, OH 43214
614-262-2022; x. 222; x 226
Email: ccameron@oeffa.org;
samira@oeffa.org
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016

PENNSYLVANIA

Jared Grissinger or Kyle Heffner
PA Dept. of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
P: 717-705-9513 F: 717-787-5643
Email: Jared Grissinger -
jgrissinge@state.pa.us
Email: Kyle Heffner - kyheffner@pa.gov
Application Deadline: 11/16/2016

SOUTH DAKOTA

Ty Eschenbaum
South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture
523 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501
P: 605-773-5436; 800-228-5254
F: 605-773-3481
E-mail: ty.eschenbaum@state.sd.us
Application Deadline: 11/15/2016

WISCONSIN

Juli Speck, Grants Manager
WI Dept. of Ag. Trade &
Consumer Protection
P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
P: 608-224-5134
E-mail: Juli.Speck@wisconsin.gov
Application Deadline: 10/31/2016 ■

CLASSIFIEDS

LIVESTOCK

For Sale: 4 PUREBRED JERSEY DAIRY COWS. 3 certified organic & one organic but not certified. 3 still milking-1 dry. All bred due around February 2017. E-mail if interested can forward photos & specifics on cows. Hampton, MN. well-springorganicfarms@gmail.com.

For Sale: 3 DAIRY GOATS. 2 certified organic & 1 organic but not certified dairy goats. Also have 2 bucks; 1 is certified organic. E-mail if interested can forward photos & specifics on goats. Hampton, MN. wellspringorganicfarms@gmail.com.

For Sale: Purebred Mangalitsa pigs for breeding stock or butchering. Also, grassfed beef cows for butchering. Rockland, WI. Call 608-498-6656.

For Sale: Three MOSA Certified Organic Holstein Heifers. One to freshen the end of September, one in November, and one the end of December. All nice looking. Accelerated Genetics easy calving bulls used. Good records on each that include vaccinations, sires, and due dates. We have always had a closed herd. Elk Mound, WI. 715-879-5572.

For Sale: 10-15 Certified Organic Cows. For more info call Dan: 608-943-6149 or 608-393-9634. Fennimore, WI.

For Sale: Chester White boar, certified organic, out of A.I. Livewire breeding (SGI). Approx. 500#. Mothering and meat qualities. \$250. Keune Farms, Seymour, WI. 920-788-4053.

For Sale: MOSA Certified, Grass-Fed, Belted Galloway Breeding Stock. Unique genetics for beef tenderness. Michael and Lorna Caldwell of Caldwell Farms (Milladore, WI) are selling select, registered Belted Galloways this year. Visit www.beltiebeef.com to view a video of our Belties. Please call 715-457-6765 or email belties@caldwellfarms.com for details.

For Sale: Three organic crossbred dairy cows, two fresh and one springing, would like to keep calf out of her if possible. Asking \$2000 for fresh cows, OBO, and \$2000 for springing cow if I can keep calf, otherwise, \$2500, OBO. McNulty Farms, Black River Falls, WI, 715-896-0213.

For Sale: Fleckvieh Heifer Calves, Fleckvieh/Holstein Bred Heifers, Devon/Fleckvieh Bull, and a 75% Fleckvieh/25% Holstein Bull. Thorpe, WI. Call Allen at: 715-206-0491.

For Sale: 12 Organic dairy springing heifers, mostly holstein some crosses. All bred to 100% Fleckvieh bull, due May through august. \$2550. Also 2000+ bushels of Organic shelled corn in a bin. D'Huyvetter Farms. Humbird, WI. 715-429-1000 or dhuyvetter1@gmail.com.

Wanted: Organic Dairy Replacement Heifers. Holstein or other dairy breeds- can be crossbreds. 175 pounds up to shortbreds. Contact: Ray Gingerich, 11001 Co. 15, Harmony, MN 55939.

For Sale: 7 Icelandic lambs that were born in April. All are certified organic. Lancaster, WI (608) 723-4526 or (608) 723-8789.

For Sale: Perfect starter group! Icelandic Sheep - 7 ewes that are 1-2 years old and a 1-2 year old ram. Lancaster, WI (608) 723-4526 or (608) 723-8789.

For Sale: Purebred Large Black Piglets born August 4th, 2016 & August 15th. Will be 6 weeks old Sept 15th, 2016 & Sept 26th, 2016. Ready to go any time after that. All are certified organic feeder pigs. Lancaster, WI (608) 723-4526 or (608) 723-4526.

For Sale: 4 certified organic beef heifer calves & 4 certified organic beef bull calves. All born spring 2016 (mostly April). Dad is angus/shorthorn, mothers are shorthorn, shorthorn/angus, 1/2 shorthorn/ 1/4 Holstein / 1/4 jersey, Corrientes/angus. Lancaster, WI Call (608) 723-4526 or (608) 723-8789.

For Sale: Nice starter herd!! 7 cows (born between 2011 & 2014) are for sale. They currently have calves that were born mostly in April, which are for sale, by their side and are currently with the bull (shorthorn/angus bull), which is for sale as well. Cows are certified organic shorthorn, certified organic shorthorn/angus, certified organic 1/2 shorthorn/ 1/4 Holstein / 1/4 jersey, & Corrientes/angus. They've only ever been on pasture and fed hay during the winter. Hardy crew! Lancaster, WI Call (608) 723-4526 or (608) 723-8789.

EQUIPMENT

For Sale: New I&J Manufacturing cover crop roller & horse driven implements. Organic Roots Way is a dealer located in Camp Douglas WI. Contact Joel for info and pricing shipped directly to your address. 608-427-3423.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Certified organic molasses. 5 gallon pails. FOB Verona Wisconsin 53593. \$70/pail. Discounts for larger quantities. Pure Sweet Honey Farm 608-845-9601, psh@chorus.net.

For Sale: Mr.K's garlic tincture & garlic vinegar approved for use as treatment in organic production. Helps with mastitis, scours, etc... 330-674-3999 x3.

EMPLOYMENT AND INTERNSHIPS

Help Wanted: Central Wisconsin Organic Dairy Farm is seeking help for milking, calf care and other work depending on skill level and willingness to learn. Possible off-farm housing as part of compensation. Possible opportunity to pursue integration of other species/plants into the farm system (ex. pigs, chickens, bees, produce, etc.). Pay to be negotiated. Contact TomorrowRiverDairy@gmail.com.

Help Wanted: GW Organics is looking for a motivated person eager to learn how to manage and work with farm animals. Tasks will vary but involve

milking cows, moving fences, operating machinery, feeding pigs, feeding poultry, collecting and washing eggs, pizza night prep and some store work. This is a live in position with own room and shared bathroom. All living expenses are included with a stipend. Pay depends on experience however no experience is necessary. Please send an email with brief experience and why you would want to work on a family farm to: grasswayorganics@gmail.com.

Intern Wanted: Internship opportunity on transitioning organic dairy farm in west central Wisconsin. We are interested in working with someone who is honest, hardworking, eager to learn and passionate about working with dairy cows. Housing and stipend provided. There will be opportunity for employment for the right person. Call 608-606-9373 or email jjihartman@gmail.com.

Help Wanted: Farm couple wanted on a 70 cow organic dairy farm. Full time position with every other weekend off. Nice 2-story house provided. Appliances included. Wage based on experience. Opportunity to work toward herd ownership. Central WI. For additional information please call 715-200-1673.

For Sale: Certified Organic Farm to be sold Nov. 15th. New Richland, MN. Township #105. Sealed bid. For notice of sale contact: Diane at Patton, Hoversten and Berg. 507-835-5240.

VEGETABLES/SEEDS/TRANSPLANTS

For Sale: Certified Organic Garlic Seed from Vermont Valley Community Farm LLC. Chesnok Red, German, Italian Red, and Musik. Follow this link for details and ordering information: <http://contacc/2bEApej>

For Sale: Certified Organic Garlic Seed. Planting Seed stock with over 20 organic varieties - Music, German White, Chesnok Red, German Red, Armenian, Georgian Crystal, and many more. Keene Garlic, Sun Prairie, WI. 608-215-7599 or www.keeneorganics.com

For Sale: Organic Garlic. 14 hardneck and 2 softneck varieties. \$12 per lb plus shipping. Please contact SunFresh Foods, Paul Schmidt at pschmidt@centurylink.net or 507-259-1964. Preston, MN.

For Sale: Certified organic garlic seed. Music, Margean and Northern German. SE Ohio. Call 740-294-3575.

FORAGES & GRAINS

For Sale: Organic wheat and oat straw. Small squares. 2016 crop. Approx. 250 or each available. Wheat straw- \$3 per bale. Oat straw- \$2 per bale. No phone. Joe Kauffman. E11995 Sunset Drive, La Farge, WI 54639.

For Sale: Certified Organic Hay. Alfalfa/Grass Mix. Excellent Quality- no rain. 2nd, 3rd and 4th cuttings. Large squares. 3x3x8. Call for pricing. NE WI. Contact 920-532-0238.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

For Sale: Certified Organic Rye and Rye Straw. Seed or Feed Quality. \$14 per 50 lbs. Rye straw is available in large squares 3x3x8. Call for straw pricing. NE WI. Contact 920-532-0238.

For Sale: MOSA Certified Organic 2016 1st crop Big Square Baleage, 2nd crop Big Square Dry Hay, \$45.00 per bale. Would consider trading for Organic Milk Cows. Cashton, WI. 608-462-3006.

For Sale: All Certified Organic: Oats and Straw 2016 not harvested yet. Small Round bale of hay 40"x 52" 500lbs all stored under cover 40 available. Corn Blue River and Wapsie Valley not harvested. Merrill, Wisconsin. Call 715-297-1426.

For Sale: 2015 Organic Straw. And 2016 oat straw in large round bales. Rochester, MN. Call Rhett at 507-696-0270

For Sale: Organic rye seed. Cleaning available. Also rye straw round bales for sale. Caledonia, MN. 507-725-5281.

For Sale: Organic hay and straw. Round bales. 1st, 2nd and 3rd crop. Oat and rye straw also available. 507-725-5281.

For Sale: Small Square Straw Bales. \$3.50 per bale. Sparta/Rockland, WI. Call Tim at 608-486-8520.

For Sale: Certified organic barley straw. Small squares. La Farge, WI. 608-479-1222.

For Sale: 2016 Certified Organic first crop hay. 4' x 5' net wrapped round bales weighing approximately 1000#'s. \$40.00 each, does not include delivery. Call Jerome at 715/590-2639, Lady-smith, WI.

For Sale: Certified Organic 2016 Rye Crop Grain and Straw. Would like to sell out of field. We can Bale 4X5 Rounds or you can bale if wanted. Elk Mound, MN. Please call 715-879-5572 or 715-577-4577.

For Sale: 80 acres of Organic Hay. You bale and transport. Clinton, IA. Call Charlie 563-249-1350.

For Sale: MOSA Certified Organic Small Square Bales of Straw. \$3.50 per bale. Sparta/Rockland, WI. Call Tim at: 608-486-8520 or 507-450-3788.

For Sale: Organic Hay. Wrapped large squares. 60% grass, 40% alfalfa. \$50 per bale. Darlington, WI. Call AI at: 608-574-0391

To submit an ad to be posted in the printed version of the Organic Cultivator and on the MOSA website, send it to MOSA, PO Box 821, Viroqua, WI 54665, or email to mosa@mosaorganic.org. All ads will be posted for 60 days free of charge for MOSA clients (100 words max). For non-clients, cost of an ad is \$5.00 for 40 words, and \$0.10 per word over 40 (max 100 words).

MOSA does not guarantee that all products posted on this page are certified organic, and MOSA is not responsible for the accidental purchase of non-organic products through the use of this page. Always check to guarantee the certification status of any product before purchasing or using. ■

Organic Crops on a Large Scale, Field Day Sept. 15 | Cottonwood, MN

The Olsons grow organic corn, soybeans, and small grains on 1,100 acres using a three-year cash crop rotation with cover crops. The MOSES and OGRAIN field day covers weed management, soil fertility, and cover crops - particularly tillage radishes planted in late summer. Contact MOSES at 715-778-5775 or go to <https://moses-organic.org/events/organic-field-days/september-15/>.

Grant Opportunities for Farmers Workshop Sept. 16 | Barron, WI

This workshop will demonstrate when grants make sense and will cover ways to plan your project and strengthen your application. The fee is \$15 and lunch is included. Contact tim.jergenson@ces.uwex.edu or call 715-537-6250.

Bison Advantage Workshop Sept. 16 | Wolcottville, IN

The National Bison Association has received SARE funding to host a series of workshops across the country, introducing producers to this emerging sector of sustainable American agriculture. This intro course covers holistic management and marketing of bison, a free bison "toolkit" of invaluable production education materials, a tour of the host ranch, lunch, and a networking hour. The workshop and field day is hosted on Cook's Bison Ranch. Contact jim@bisoncentral.com or call 303-292-2833.

Student Organic Farm Field Day Sept. 20 | St. Paul, MN

The University of Minnesota will be hosting an open house and field day at Cornercopia, the student organic farm and research plots. Participants can learn about innovative organic growing practices that students are involved with and can also talk to researchers about their work in organic and sustainable agriculture. See http://cornercopiafarm.blogspot.com/p/about-farm_17.html for more info.

Natural Products Expo East Sept. 22-24 | Baltimore, MD

Natural Products Expo East is the largest natural, organic, and healthy products trade show on the East Coast. With the newest and best-selling products and branded ingredients available, this show features the best in organics.

Permaculture Workshop Sept. 25 | Almond, WI

Topics covered include diversifying food production, rainwater harvesting, solar and biofuel energy sources, passive solar shelters, waste/nutrient cycling for soil building, and community engagement in food and farming education. Cost is \$65-80. Call 715-544-6154 or go to <http://www.farmshed.org/events/hands-on-permaculture/>.

OCTOBER 2016

Pasture Walk at Cavadini Farm October 6 | Marshfield, WI

This pasture walk will look at how cover crops can be used to extend your grazing season and improve your soil health. Cover crop species and variety selection, seeding methods and timing, and site preparation will be discussed. Contact william.kolodziej@co.marathon.wi.us or call 715-261-6038.

Organic Seed Webinar Series: Cleaning and Recordkeeping October 18 | Online

A new six-webinar series on organic seed production will provide training for seed growers and seed production interns. Call 814-863-2525 or go to <http://articles.extension.org/pages/73816/organic-seed-production-webinar-series>.

Pasture Walk with Olaf Haugen October 18 | Canton, MN

This pasture walk will look at Sorghum Sudan versus grazed corn as a summer annual solution for both managing the summer pasture slump and paddock renovation options, as well as setting up the paddocks for fall grazing. It will also review the overall soil health after 22 years of rotational grazing. Contact MOSES at 715-778-5775.

New Farmer U October 21-23 | Lanesboro, MN

Learn from experienced organic farmers and agriculture experts about the field and financial aspects of farming. This two-day event will help you find creative options for accessing land, get funds for farm improvements, make a farm business plan, meet food safety rules, obtain organic certification, grow better using organic practices, market your farm products, and connect with other new farmers. Hosted by MOSES, Renewing the Countryside, and the Land Stewardship Program. Contact MOSES at 715-778-5775. ■



MOSA
P.O. BOX 821
VIROQUA, WI 54665
608-637-2526

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MOSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrian Plapp, President,
815-825-2589
ajplapp@aol.com

Katrina Becker, Vice President
715-432-4683
info@stoneyacresfarm.net

Judith Reith-Rozelle, Treasurer
608-219-2188
stonehoeing@gmail.com

Denise Thornton, Secretary
608-469-1193
thornton.denise@gmail.com

Annalisa Hultberg, Director
612-532-4888
hultb006@umn.edu

Sue Baird, Director
660-427-5555
suebairdorganics@gmail.com